



SAVANNAH RIVER SITE

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July 3, 2007

ESH-EPG-2007-00083

Amy Bennett
Standards Coordinator
Bureau of Water
South Carolina Department of Health
and Environmental Control
2600 Bull Street
Columbia, SC 29201

Dear Ms. Bennett:

ADDITIONAL WSRC COMMENTS REGARDING R61-68 NOTICE OF DRAFTING

Washington Savannah River Company (WSRC) would like to commend highly the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control (SCDHEC) for the openness with which they are performing this triennial review of regulation 61-68. We look forward to continuing discussions about regulatory issues that significantly impact the Savannah River Site (SRS). In that vein, WSRC is providing the following additional comments.

1. In response to SCDHEC's answer to a February 26, 2007, WSRC comment on the regulation 61-68 notice of drafting, WSRC does not agree that existing water quality standards are appropriate for the protection of ephemeral and intermittent streams. Until EPA completes their assessment regarding how best to protect these waters, calculating NPDES permit limits using zero 7Q10 flow and existing water quality standards is overly stringent and costly. SCDHEC's response to this comment indicates that the Department is concerned mostly about protecting downstream uses of larger waterbodies. WSRC agrees with this concept and requests that language be added to regulation 61-68 allowing permittees who discharge into ephemeral or intermittent streams to have the option of monitoring and reporting effluent parameters, while agreeing to also monitor the receiving waterbody for the same parameters. If desired, SCDHEC could place NPDES limits on these parameters, requiring that they not cause a statistically meaningful rise above the naturally occurring background instream concentrations in the downstream waterbody.
2. Section E.16.
WSRC requests that the following sentence (in red) be added at the end of the first paragraph in this section, as follows:
The Department may consider other scientifically-defensible published data which are appropriate for use in developing permit limits and evaluating water quality for constituents for which EPA has not developed national criteria or South Carolina has no standards.
"Limits for these constituents will normally be required when they are added or used in a

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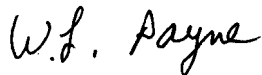
manufacturing process, but not when they are present due to natural conditions." WSRC is simply recommending this language and understands that something more complete may need to be developed by SCDHEC.

3. Section E.14.c.(5) - Sourcewater Protection

WSRC appreciates the level of effort that went into writing this section and recognizes that it is difficult to develop clear language on this topic. Sourcewater protection is a critical concept since it is used to develop human health-based water quality standard NPDES limits that continue to become increasingly stringent. WSRC is concerned that the complexity of the language makes it difficult to interpret and may lead to misunderstandings between SCDHEC permit writers and permittees. More importantly, WSRC is concerned about the derivation of certain parameters that are used in sourcewater protection calculations. For example, according to page 6 of the document entitled Determination of the Primary and Secondary Source-Water Protection Areas for Selected Surface-Water Public-Supply Systems in South Carolina, 1999, "the 24-hr travel time was selected because the SCDHEC estimated that an intake operator would be unable to react and make proper adjustments for contaminant spills in less than 24 hrs." Although it is understood that a value for time of travel (TOT) had to be derived, this seems like an arbitrary method for doing so and WSRC feels that more scrutiny is needed before it becomes a regulatory requirement. Further, it is not clear why TOT10 should be favored over another TOT value. The referenced document also provides values for both TOT50 and TOT90. Selection of TOT10 for purposes of this regulation may be overly stringent - especially when coupled with a 24 hour travel time and decreasing human health standards. WSRC recommends that this language not be added during this triennial review so that a more detailed evaluation and development of clear and reasonable language can be completed. If language must be added during this triennial review, then WSRC recommends that the TOT50 value be used instead of the TOT10 value. It will be much easier down the road to tighten this value to TOT10 than to lessen it to TOT50.

If you have any questions about these comments, please do not hesitate to contact me at (803) 952-7989 or Vernon Osteen at (803) 952-8318.

Yours truly,



W. L. Payne
Environmental Services Section
Washington Savannah River Company LLC

/wlp

c: A. B. Gould, DOE-SR*

* electronic copy